



August 2025 Newsletter



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Since our last newsletter in May, the Farm Cornwall team have been busy on farms and attending several agricultural shows. At the Royal Cornwall Show it was great to see so many familiar faces and also meet some new farmers who weren't aware of the work we do. We met with Steve Reed MP and Shadow Minister Robbie Moore, both of them asked for our take of what is happening on the ground. We also had the ear of Prince William for a while, he was very supportive of the work we do, in particular the mental health aspect of farming. And if one meeting wasn't enough, Edward met with Prince William again at Groundswell where the topic of conversation was focussed on the younger generations and children in farming. It is very important that we continue to champion for farmers and farming, and to feedback what we see and hear on the ground.

One thing that has struck us this summer is how Cornwall has largely (although not entirely) avoided the summer drought that is affecting vast areas of England. Go beyond Okehampton and West Dartmoor and the fields are scorched, grass is non-existent and even maize is burning off. Fields have been catching fire and winter rations are being fed. In contrast, we had several farmers tell us at Camelford Show that this summer had been a good one - multiple silage cuts, crops flourishing in the ground and livestock content. Cornwall has certainly escaped the worst of it.



Above: a happy smiling crowd for Prince William.

Below: "Yes Minister, farmers are still here, clinging to the wreckage"



Whats on?

For all events please let us know if you would like to attend by messaging Edward or Wendy
(wendy.wellies@farmcornwall.co.uk)

2nd Sept 2025 10.30am Farmers Breakfast Victoria Inn Roche. St.Austell PL26 8LQ

A chance to meet up and have a catch up over breakfast, this is a joint event by Farm Cornwall and FCN.
Book by calling Edward 07775 667825 Or Roly 07976 016096

Wed 15th October – Safe use of medicines at 11am

Delivered by Heather of Focus Farm Vets. Nancegollan TR13 0BH

Meet at the offices for a course to discuss medicines and how to potentially reduce the use of them in animal husbandry. Informal and a great opportunity to meet up with other farmers. Pasty lunch. £50 plus VAT to include your certificate to meet assurance requirements.

12th November – Farm walk at 11am, Trevarnon Farm, 20 Prosper Hill, Gwithian, Hayle TR27 5EB

Hosted by Nikki & Tim Powell. A very interesting walk for farmers and pre booked please, with an unexpected twist. The family grow spring greens grown to feed to locusts
Cauliflower grown for the Duchy college brassica trials
6 polytunnels which we multiply cauliflower seeds in for HM Clause (France)

Next Generation Group

We are setting up a series of walks/talks/events with James Daniel at Precision Grazing. These will be based across the county, more details to come on these.

In the meantime - we need to rename this group. It's not quite the right fit and so we are looking for any suggestions for a group name? Age range is roughly mid 20s to mid 40s. Please let us know if you have any ideas. Top three names will be circulated for the best and the winning name announced in the new year, **a £50 voucher** offered to the winning nominee.

SURFS UP! Saturday 20th Sept 10am

We have organised a surfing session for this group, its a chance to get off the farm, have a go and have some fun. Venue TBC depending on tides and weather, but will be Gwithian/Godrevy area. 10am til 12pm, £20 per session. Names please to Louise 07907 350130 or Edward 07775 667825

Grants and funding update

Blink and you miss it! The government opened up the long awaited capital grant scheme in early July, and shut it on 1st August claiming that the money had been allocated. For many it was a difficult process, the RPA using previous capital grant agreements to block new applications. We are aware of some new applications being blocked by capital grant agreements dating back to 2017, so they have clearly long expired. For those that were able to jump through the hurdles and get an application submitted, it is now a case of waiting to hear whether you have been successful.

Higher Tier is due to reopen imminently but that is restricted and is not a free for all. For the vast majority of farms there will not be anything to apply for now until 2026.

BPS payments are being sent out in August with many receiving their payment early in the month. There is just one payment this year, and this is with a 76% reduction from the average amount previously worked out. For delinked payments in 2026 and 2027, Defra plan to apply a 98% reduction to the first £30,000 of any delinked payment and any amount above £30,000 will be reduced by 100%.

Ladies in Wellies Update and Events

We have enjoyed a variety of get togethers in addition to the summer show season. Thanks to Georgina Stephens for arranging a great evening paddling up the river. Madeliene Nicholls arranged a moorland walk and we also got together for an evening walk from Devoran. The visit to Colwith Distillery, Tremore Dairy & Hall for Cornwall to see Kaleb Cooper were also very much enjoyed by all that went. Thank you.

For all upcoming events please let us know if you would like to attend by messaging wendy.wellies@farmcornwall.co.uk or ticking the 'going' tag on the Facebook group. Ring a neighbour and spread the word. If you find you cannot attend please let us know so we are not waiting.



River Camel Boat Trip on The Jubilee Queen, September 21st leaves harbour at 6pm.

<https://bookeo.com/jubileequeen?type=32529LXFX9195F5F61ABE>

All evening boat trip from Padstow Harbour. **All Bookings must be made direct with the boat company** using the on-line link. We'll meet on the boat.

When booking there is an option to include supper (normally fish and chips). The boat has licensed saloon bar. Singer is Andy – sings swing and Sinatra favourites and is a fun dance and singalong. The exact quayside mooring and departure point can vary so allow time to reach all sides of the harbour just in case!

Pasty making at St.Buryan Farm shop 24th Sept from 6pm

Morwenna will show us how to make our pasties. If you can't make it for 6pm please join us when you can. Pasties can be home cooked if easier but I'm certain Morwenna will have the coffee machine on so we can all have a crimp and chatter. £5 per person to contribute to the ingredients and Morwenna has kindly offered a donation to the group.

The Hall Walk at Fowey, Wednesday 1st October at 10.45am

Meet at Bodinnick Ferry at the top of the slip before we board together to cross the River Fowey. (£2 per foot passenger) back via Polruan ferry (£3.20 pp and 50p for dog) and through town for optional pasty coffee and shopping.

It's a medium to strenuous walk, uneven and steep in places so walking footwear is important. The walk is likely to take 3- 3.5 hours including the ferry crossings at a steady pace. Dog friendly – on leads please.

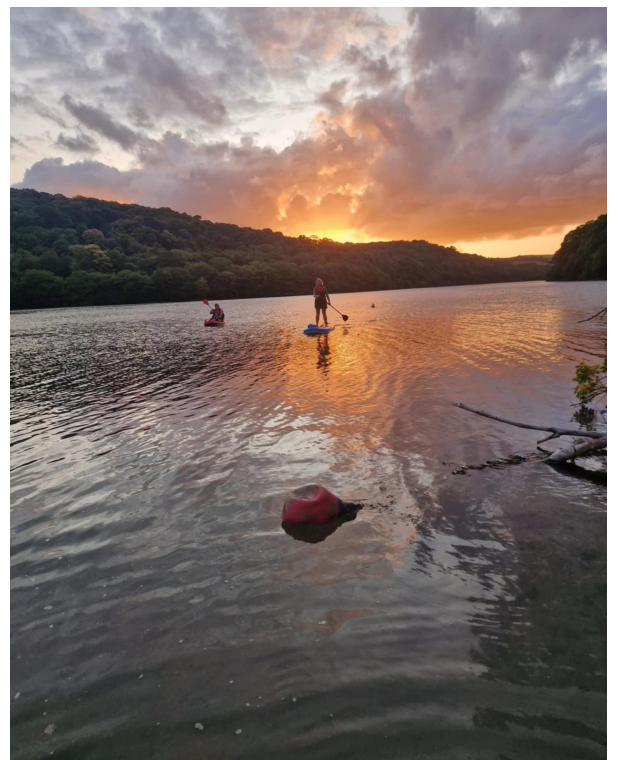
A walk and migratory bird watching around Siblyback lake, Thursday 16th October 11am

Meet by the Olive Café and toilets.

Parking usually cash and card machines but recommend download and set up your Ringo parking app beforehand) £5 day parking. Dog friendly. Bring binoculars if you have any and any bird knowledge you have!

Walking for around 1 ¾ hours mostly level walk, optional finish at Olive cafe afterwards.

Christmas Wreath Making Saturday 29th November by kind invitation Nic Carlyon at Kernow Training Ltd. Time tbc



What do Farm Cornwall do?

We often hear people say “I had no idea Farm Cornwall did that”, so we thought it might be useful/interesting for us to give some examples of the work we have been doing over the past year. Every day is different for us and every farm is different, but the aim is always to support the farm to provide a positive outcome.

Animal Health

Through Trading Standards we came across a farmer who through ill health had not registered some calves on his farm. He had a series of illnesses which we could align with his cattle births and apply late as some of these calves were now 10 months old. All 24 were awarded proper trading passports, the most Edward has dealt with on one farm was 60 and again all calves were awarded full trading passports.

Housing

We supported a family that had decided to retire due the farmer's own ill health, he was in his mid fifties with diabetes. We were able to work with the landlord and Addington Fund to provide a house in a local village where both he and his wife could live there for the rest of their lives.

Farm Assurance

A farm had their dairy business put on hold following a failure to meet the standards. We worked with the family to ensure that the “failure trigger” points were corrected, with the help of the milk buyer and the farmer's own vet. In the closure period the milk unfortunately produced on the farm had to be poured down the drain (let into the slurry store). Cows were continued to be milked, cows and youngstock fed, muck was shifted and wages had to be paid. Imagine no milk sold for 14 days and the mental health pressure that puts upon the family.

Suicide Prevention

Both Louise and Edward are Asist Suicide Prevention trained and in Edwards 15 years of employment at Farm Cornwall he has sat on beds, in barns, in workshops and farm offices being told why a person no longer wants to be here at least 5 times. He remembers sitting in a farm building on a foul day with rain driving in through the doorway talking to a farmer as why he no longer thought his life was worth living and how he intended to do it. All the time for three hours water dripped from the strip light above them, he didn't take his life and he recovered from this to continue farming until retirement.

Debt

This is the most common issue we see, farmers often don't open the post, they avoid talking to the person they owe money too, even going as far as having a succession of pay as you go phones, used almost as “burner phones”. Leaving some people on the back burner for too long even though their bill isn't the highest. We would work with the farmer to come up with payment plans, cash flow budgets for the banks, look at technical issues which could be affecting production like achieving milk quality and best price. Look at cost of production and pence per litre and compare from experience whether those costs are higher than comparable farms. Often the biggest difference lies in the amount of debt being serviced, costly equipment HPs, cost of repairs, is all the equipment required after all you can only sit on one at a time.

We have even help set up IVA Individual Voluntary Arrangements with insolvency practitioners where debt levels are too high to manage on individual payment plans.

This is just part one of our “What do we do” - we'll provide some more details and information of the other work we also carry out in the next newsletter.